

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3676

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2006

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 070302

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE KEYED TO REFTEL PARAGRAPH
NUMBERS:

1. YOUTH CATEGORIES

A. 25 - PERCENT- YOUNG BUREAUCRATS- ESPECIALLY IN
THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE AND CULTURE.

20 PERCENT- MEDIA

15 PERCENT- ARTS AND LETTERS

10 PERCENT- EDUCATION

5 PERCENT- CHURCH

15 PERCENT- SELECTED UNIVERSITIES OR FACULTIES OF
PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE

5 PERCENT- LEADERS OF NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

5 PERCENT- UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADERS

B. RATIONALE: THE CATEGORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO
WHOM ACCESS, UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS, IS POSSIBLE
INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, YOUNG MEDIA PERSONALITIES AND YOUNG

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BUREAUCRATS. CONTACTS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WHOSE FUNCTIONS
ARE QUASI- POLITICAL-- FOR EXAMPLE, YOUTH GROUP LEADERS--

ARE MORE DIFFICULT, AND ACCESS TO YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS WHO ARE NOT ALSO ACTIVE IN SOME EXTRA- PARTY AREA SUCH AS THE BUREAUCRACY IS POSSIBLE ONLY ON RARE OCCASIONS. CONTACTS WITH YOUNG LEADERS OF DISSIDENT GROUPS OR OTHER DISAFFECTED MINORITIES ARE marginally USEFUL AND POTENTIALLY DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE EMBASSY.

C. THE SHORT- TERM IMPACT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLAND IS MINIMAL. STUDENTS, OF COURSE, COULD HAVE GREAT POLITICAL INFLUENCE GIVEN CERTAIN VERY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AT PRESENT THAT SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST OR ARE LIKELY TO ARISE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. 50 PERCENT- THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH CONTACTS, UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW INCIPIENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL TRENDS IN THE SOCIETY.

20 PERCENT- OTHER. FOSTER APPRECIATION OF US CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND THEREBY A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF US SOCIETY.

10 PERCENT- ASSURE ACCESS TO KEY FUTURE LEADERSHIP.

20 PERCENT- ENCOURAGE PRAGMATIC, NON- IDEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS.

B. RATIONALE: THE POLISH REGIME' S ATTITUDE AND POLICIES TOWARD YOUTH IN THE PAST HAVE OFTEN MIRRORED ITS BROADER POLITICAL APPROACH AND PRESAGED BOTH LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL TRENDS. WE THEREFORE CONSIDER YOUTH AFFAIRS TO BE A USEFUL AREA FOR EVALUATING POLISH INTERNAL POLICIES AND BELIEVE THAT OUR MAJOR EFFORT SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON FOSTERING YOUTH CONTACTS WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO UNDERSTAND NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY MORE CLEARLY.

EFFORTS ON OUR PART TO INFLUENCE DIRECTLY PARTICULAR YOUTH ATTITUDES AND POLITICAL TRENDS RAISE PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE POLITICAL SENSIBILITIES OF OUR HOST GOVERNMENT. IN OUR OPINION, THEREFORE, WE SHOULD STRIVE TO
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MAXIMIZE THE INDIRECT INFLUENCE WHICH RESULTS FROM PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WHICH APPEAL PARTICULARLY TO YOUNG PEOPLE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN REACHING POLISH YOUTH THROUGH THE EMBASSY' S CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY FILM PROGRAMS, SMALL EXHIBITS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. THE RESPONSE TO THESE HAS OFTEN BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC AND WE BELIEVE HAS HELPED TO FOSTER A HEALTHY IMAGE OF THE UNITED STATES AMONG POLISH YOUNG PEOPLE. ALTHOUGH THESE ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO COVERED BELOW, WE HAVE INCLUDED THEM HERE BECAUSE WE THINK THEY ARE AND SHOULD REMAIN A MAJOR OBJECTIVE

OF THE EMBASSY'S YOUTH PROGRAM.

III. RESOURCES

A. 20 PERCENT- CU EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS
20 PERCENT- CU AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS
10 PERCENT- USIA CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMMING
10 PERCENT- CU INTERNATIONAL VISITOR TRAVEL GRANTS
CU FULL- YEAR ACADEMIC GRANTS TO
10 PERCENT- FOREIGN STUDENTS
10 PERCENT- AMERICAN STUDENTS
10 PERCENT- AMERICAN PROFESSORS (LECTURING)
5 PERCENT- AMERICAN PROFESSORS (RESEARCH)
5 PERCENT- CU SHORT- TERM AMERICAN GRANTEES

B. RATIONALE: THE EMBASSY HAS LONG EXPERIENCE
WITH MOST OF THE ABOVE PROGRAMS, WHICH CONSTITUTE THE
KEYSTONE OF OUR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DIRECTED TOWARD YOUTH.
WE FIND PARTICULAR VALUE IN THE EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT
AND THE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS. IN THE LATTER AREA,
PLANS ARE WELL UNDER WAY FOR A CENTER FOR AMERICAN
CIVILIZATION AT WARSAW UNIVERSITY WHICH WE BELIVE WILL
HAVE A DECIDEDLY FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE ATTITUDES OF
UNIVERSITY YOUNG PEOPLE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES.

IV. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH

A. LOW

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B. THE CONCERN OF THIS POST WITH YOUTH MUST BE CON-
DITIONED BY THE OVER- ALL IMPORTANCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN
POLISH SOCIETY. THAT IMPORTANCE, EXCEPT IN RARE INSTANCES,
IS SLIGHT. IN VIEW OF THIS AND OF THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS
OF ACCESS WHICH LIMIT OUR CONTACTS WITH POLISH YOUNG PEOPLE,
PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO MIGHT BE CLASSED AS POTENTIAL
POLITICAL LEADERS, THE PROBABLY RESULTS OF ANY EMBASSY
YOUTH PROGRAM DO NOT, IN OUR OPINION, JUSTIFY A MAJOR
EXPENDITURE OF TIME AND RESOURCES.

C. 1 (A) AND (B). BECAUSE OF OUR SPECIAL CIRCUM-
STANCES, IN WHICH RELATIVELY LITTLE OF OUR OVER- ALL EFFORT
IS DEVOTED SPECIFICALLY TO YOUTH BUT MUCH OF WHAT WE DO
HAS SOME RELEVANCE TO OR IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE, WE FIND
IT DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY THE PERCENTAGE OF OUR ACTIVITY
OR THE NUMBER OF MAN HOURS GIVEN OVER TO YOUTH AFFAIRS.
MOREOVER, IT SEEMS TO US THAT IN OUR CASE ANY BREAKDOWN
OF YOUTH- RELATED ACTIVITY ACCORDING TO TIME SPENT ON
CONTACT WORK, REPORTING AND PROGRAM WORK WOULD BE PURELY
ARBITRARY. WE CONCEIVE OF THE YOUTH PROGRAM AS A COHESIVE

WHOLE, IN WHICH REPORTING ARISES FROM CONTACT WORK WHICH
IS, TO A GREAT EXTENT, GENERATED BY PROGRAM ACTIVITY.

C. 1. (C). STATE 30 PERCENT; USIA 70 PERCENT.

C. 2. 15 PERCENT USIA BUDGET (NOTE: THE CU BUDGET
IS PART OF THE USIA BUDGET AT THIS POST.)
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